

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) An apparatus for securing an object to a vehicle, comprising:
2 a mounting bracket;
a mating unit removably connected to the mounting bracket, the mating
4 unit comprising:
an adjustable shackle;
6 a mating portion, the mating portion being fixedly secured to said
adjustable shackle; and
8 a locking mechanism, the locking mechanism operative to allow
adjustment of said shackle in an unlocked position and to prevent
10 adjustment of said shackle in a locked position; and
means for removably securing the mating portion to the
12 mounting bracket.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the means for removably
2 securing the mating portion to the mounting bracket is inaccessible after the
object is secured by the adjustable shackle.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for securing
2 comprise a retaining pin, a first aperture located on the mounting bracket, and a
second aperture located on the mating unit, wherein the first aperture and the
4 second aperture are aligned with each other and the retaining pin is inserted into
the first and second apertures, thereby maintaining the mounting bracket and the
6 mating unit in a fixed relationship with each other.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the mounting bracket further
2 comprises a slotted lower surface and the mating unit further comprises a tabbed

4 lower surface, the tabbed lower surface for insertion into the slotted lower surface.

2 5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the retaining pin is inaccessible when the object is secured through an opening formed by the adjustable shackle.

2 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a fin guard for covering a fin removal mechanism on the object and for preventing access to the fin removal mechanism.

2 7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting bracket comprises a rear planar surface for mounting to the vehicle, an upper portion connected to the rear planar surface, and a lower portion connected to the rear planar surface, the upper portion and the lower portion for receiving the mating unit.

Claim 8 (Withdrawn)

2 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
2 a cushion, the cushion comprising a surface substantially conforming to a cross-section of an edge of the object, the cushion secured to the adjustable
4 shackle.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn)

2 11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the object comprises a surfboard.

2 12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the object comprises a snowboard.

Claims 13-16 (Withdrawn)